(c) whether any new aircraft is being provided to this company; if so, the number of aircrafts; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Alliance Air is operating its services with 12 Boeing 737 aircraft taken on lease from Indian Airlines. The average age of these aircraft as on Ist December, 1999 is 18.4 years.

(b) Alliance Air has been granted permit to operate scheduled air transport services within India.

(c) A techno-economic evaluation study to replace the B-737 aircraft fleet is currently underway in Indian Airlines. The type, number and the time-frame for the acquisition have not been firmed up so far.

Assistance by NHB for Housing Sector in the NE States

*339. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Housing Bank has provided any financial assistance to the North-Eastern States for construction of houses;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount of money given during the last two years to each State in the North-Eastern Region; and

(c) the nodal agency which monitors the progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The National Housing Bank (NHB) is providing refinance in respect of housing finance extended by commercial banks and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) in the North Eastern States for construction of houses.

(b) The refinance assistance provided by NHB in respect of individual housing loans disbursed by Housing Finance Companies

(HFCs) in the last two years in the North Eastern States is given below:

	July 1, 1997-June 30, 1998		July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999	
Name of State	No. of Units	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of Units	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
Assam	38	15.77	34	14.62
Manipur	14	14.13	Nil	*
Meghalaya	*			
Mizoram		Nil		
Tripura				
Arunachal				
Pradesh				
Nagaland				

The above data pertains only to those housing loans, in which refinance assistance of NHB is involved.

(c) NHB monitors the progress of financial assistance extended for housing by various commercial banks and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) registered with it.

Performance of Public Sector Shipyard

*340. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will ther Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of public sector Shipyards under the Ministry during the current year;

(b) whether they could attract orders for productivity as well as sustenance; and